

a.) Remarks

Claims 42, 43, 46, 53, 63, 72, 73, 80, 81, 84, 91 and 99-102 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

This is the sole remaining rejection, all claims having otherwise been indicated as free of the prior art.

In this regard, the Examiner acknowledges the specification both enables and describes (i) pressing tablets at 0.7 ton/cm^2 and (ii) pressing tablets at 1.3 ton/cm^2 . However, the Examiner is unsure there is written description for pressing tablets in the range between 0.7 and 1.3 ton/cm^2 .

Accordingly, to complete the record, Applicants wish to explain the specification teaches high tableting pressures are deleterious:

"when a tablet including granule on which surface a film is coated is produced, the film formed on the surface of the granule isn't destroyed"

at page 82, lines 17-19. That is to say, since the film is normally destroyed at high tableting pressure (as explicitly taught at page 6, lines 10-19), those of ordinary skill understand that tableting pressures lower than 1.3 ton/cm^2 (as shown in Tables 3 and 4) may be utilized without consequence.

As to the lower limit of such tableting pressures, Experiment 1 (at specification page 46) shows that 0.7 ton/cm^2 permits obtaining sufficiently hard tablets. In this regard, since tablets produced at low tableting pressures are normally too soft (as

explicitly taught at page 6, lines 8-10), those of ordinary skill in this art understand that higher tableting pressures higher than 0.7 ton/cm² may be utilized as well.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Claims 42, 43, 46, 53, 63, 72, 73, 80, 81, 84, 91 and 99-102 remain presented for continued prosecution.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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